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Alabama Kidney Failure Patient Goes Above and Beyond to Help Community—Awarded National DPC Hero Award

Award given to local Tuscaloosa patient in recognition of her leadership and advocacy

Washington D.C. (June 1, 2007) - DaVita Patient Citizens (DPC) – a nationwide patient advocacy group comprised of more than 21,000 dialysis and pre-dialysis patients and family members – is proud to honor dialysis patient Malaysia Scott as the May 2007 DPC Hero Award recipient. The DPC Hero award is a national recognition of empowered and heroic individuals who make a difference in the lives of dialysis patients and their communities.

“On behalf of the kidney community, we are honored to recognize Malaysia as a DPC Hero,” said Patricia Orna, DPC President. “This award program reflects the spirit of thousands of people involved within the community whose stories too often go untold and whose efforts make a difference in the lives of others. We are inspired by Malaysia’s continued support and work, and thank her for her service to the kidney community.”

Malaysia is a former EMT who was inspired to become a dialysis patient technician through her encounters with dialysis patients. Almost two years ago, Malaysia herself experienced kidney failure and began dialysis treatments. Since then, she has been a source of empowerment at her local dialysis facility, DaVita Northport. She serves as a great resource to her fellow patients in educating them about their own dialysis and has even set up a support group to encourage better communication between the clinic staff and patients. In addition, Malaysia recently traveled to Washington, D.C. where as part of the DPC Ambassador program she met with lawmakers to discuss issues relating to kidney disease.

Kidneys perform multiple essential functions. When the kidneys fail to function adequately, a replacement therapy must be chosen to sustain life. With appropriate intervention, patients with complete failure of their kidneys can live full, productive lives.

The DPC Hero award is open to caregivers, nephrologists, family members, patients, and other members of the kidney community who have empowered themselves or others in the kidney community.

Nominations for the DPC Hero award can be sent to dpc@dialysispatients.org or contact 1-866-877-4242.